

Summary of the ALP Project DSEIS



Who to Contact

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Reclamation and Interior are proposing to develop a modified ALP Project in southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico for the purpose of finally implementing the provisions of the 1988 Settlement Act. The location map shows the ALP Project area.

The DSEIS evaluates 10 separate alternatives, including 9 "action" alternatives that include several structural and non-structural components, and a "no action" alternative. Table 1 provides a listing of each alternative and associated name. The 10 alternatives were evaluated in light of the project purpose and need and their relative environmental impacts.

Following the evaluation process, two of the alternatives that were evaluated, Alternatives 4 and 6, warranted further refinement due to the closeness in their overall comparison of environmental impacts. In addition, they each represented a significantly different approach to meeting the purpose and need of the ALP Project. Refined Alternative 4 is principally a structural alternative and Refined Alternative 6 is principally a non-structural alternative. These two alternatives are described in more detail below. The DSEIS evaluates both Refined Alternatives 4 and 6 in terms of potential environmental impacts and possible mitigation measures that could be implemented to eliminate or reduce such impacts. The analysis also includes an assessment of each alternative to meet the project's purpose and need. The DSEIS concludes that Refined Alternative

4 best meets the project's purpose and need with the least environmental impact. Accordingly, it is designated as Reclamation's Preferred Alternative.

Refined Alternative 4 includes both structural and non-structural elements designed to achieve the fundamental purpose of providing the Colorado Ute Tribes with an assured water supply in satisfaction of their water rights as determined by the 1988 Settlement Act and by providing for identified municipal and industrial (M&I) water needs in the project area. A key feature of the project is a 120,000 acre-foot (af) reservoir in Ridges Basin near Durango, Colorado. With development of the structural component of this alternative, the Colorado Ute Tribes would still be approximately 13,000 af short of the total quantity of depletion recognized in the Settlement Act. Therefore, the non-structural component of the project would establish and utilize a \$40 million water acquisition fund which the Colorado Ute Tribes could use to acquire water rights on a willing buyer/willing seller basis to purchase approximately 13,000 acre-feet per year of depletions.

The structural components and associated features of Refined Alternative 4 include the Durango Pumping Plant and Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit, Ridges Basin Dam and Reservoir, and the Navajo Nation Municipal Pipeline. Any recreation facilities at Ridges Basin Reservoir would be constructed by non-Federal entities.

The non-structural component consists of

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Table 1 – ALP Project Alternatives

Number	Title
1	Administration Proposal
2	Administration Proposal with Recreation Element Added
3	Administration Proposal with San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (SJRBRIP) Element Added
4	Administration Proposal with SJRBRIP and Recreation Element Added
5	Animas-La Plata Reconciliation Plan
6	Animas River Citizen's Coalition Conceptual Alternative
7	1996 Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Statement Recommendation Action
8	Administration Proposal with an Alternative Water Supply for Non-Colorado Ute Indian Entities
9	Citizens' Progressive Alliance Alternative
10	No Action Alternative